

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~An apparatus and method are provided for improving database~~Database searching;
~~the method comprising the steps of:~~ is improved by receiving a search query
~~comprising~~including one or more search keywords from a user; accessing a user profile
~~means~~arranged to provide data indicative of relatedness criteria between keywords from a
set of documents, and identifying from ~~said~~the user profile ~~means~~, for ~~the~~ each search
keyword, potentially-related keywords according to predetermined criteria; providing
~~said~~the potentially-related keywords to the user; receiving information from the user
confirming that any potentially-related keywords are considered to be related keywords;
in the event that any potentially-related keywords are confirmed by the user to be related
keywords, incorporating such potentially-related keywords as keywords is an improved
search query; and submitting the improved search query to a search engine. Also
~~provided are an apparatus and method for creating and maintaining user~~User profiles are
created and maintained for use in ~~the above searching apparatus and methods~~such context.